

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

DANIEL A. JAPUNTICH

Serial No.: 09/677,637

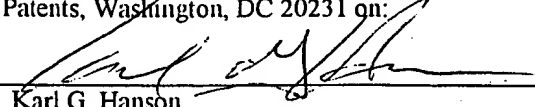
Filed: October 3, 2000

For: FIBROUS FILTRATION FACE MASK HAVING A NEW UNIDIRECTIONAL FLUID VALVE

Group Art Unit: 3761

Examiner: Aaron J. Lewis

DUE DATE(S) _____
ATTORNEY
DOCKETED KGH
And
C/C

<u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on:	
October 5, 2001	
Date	Karl G. Hanson

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action mailed July 6, 2001. Please amend this application as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 7, line 22, between "exhalation." and the word "As" insert a new sentence:

C1
When a wearer of a filtering face mask 10 exhales, exhaled air passes through the mask body 12 and exhalation valve 14. Comfort is best obtained when a high percentage of the exhaled air passes through exhalation valve 14 as opposed to the filter media of mask body 12. Exhaled air is expelled through valve 14 by having the exhaled air lift flexible flap 24 from valve seat 26. Flexible flap 24 is attached to valve seat 26 at a first portion 28 of flap 24, and the remaining circumferential edge of flexible flap 24 is free to be lifted from valve seat 26 during exhalation. The first portion 28 of the flexible flap 24 remains stationary during an exhalation and has a circumferential edge segment that may also remain stationary. As the term is used herein, "flexible" means the flap can deform or bend in the form of a self-supporting arc when secured at